FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

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Cooperative Riparian Buffer Restoration Projects Underway

The Fairfax County Park Authority is continuing collaborative efforts with the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services (DPWES) and Earth Sangha to support riparian buffer restoration projects throughout the community. The ongoing environmental improvement projects include the addition of nine more sites selected for riparian buffer restoration this spring. To date, 17 sites have been improved.

The new sites include *Lake Fairfax Park* (Hunter Mill District and Dranesville District), *Waverly Park* (Hunter Mill District), *Pleasant Hill Park* (Sully District), *Roundtree Park* (Mason District), *Rocky Run Stream Valley* near Awbrey Patent Dr. (Sully District), *Difficult Run Stream Valley Park* near Fox Mill Rd (Providence District), *Flatlick Run Stream Valley* near Hamlin Rd. (Sully District), *The Turner Farm* (Dranesville District) and a new, unnamed park currently known as the Thomas-Brodie Property in Providence District.

These restoration projects are designed to enhance the natural processes that improve water quality in stream valleys. All sites were selected following a review of the county's stream physical assessment data, a site visit, and an analysis of volunteer accessibility. DPWES received $300,000 from the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to head up an estimated 40 riparian buffer restoration projects.

Plantings begin this weekend, March 25th and will finish in May, 2006. It is anticipated that volunteers will plant over 1,500 native, riparian trees and shrubs and restore over 6,500 linear feet of stream buffer. For more information regarding this project call Meghan Fellows, Naturalist, 703-324-8586.

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